Kelley Says He Didn't Tell Saxbe About Files of F.B.I. on Officials

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WASHINGTON, April 8 (AP) —The Federal Bureau of Investigation director, Clarence M. Kelley, says he did not tell the Attorney General when he learned of J. Edgar Hoover's files of derogatory information on public officials.

"These files were described as general files. There was nothing ominous in the description of the files. There was nothing to indicate to me that it was a situation of great office. William B. Saxbe was concern," Mr. Kelly said yesterday while explaining why he did not tell the Attorney General.

Mr. Kelley said he was told of the secret files in January, 1974, six months after he took the Attorney General then, and he said before leaving office early this year that he knew little about the files.

Mr. Kelley discussed the files in an interview on "Washington Straight Talk," a program produced by the National Public Affairs Center for Television and broadcast on public TV stations.

The files contained derogatory and unsubstantiated allegations about the personal lives of Presidents, executive branch officials and 17 members of Congress, the Justice Department has said.

Department officials told a House subcommittee in February that they first learned details of the files while preparing to testify to the panel.

Mr. Kelley has told a House subcommittee that he agrees with Attorney General Edward H. Levi that such files should not be maintained. Mr. Levi has promised to develop guidelines regulating the type of information kept in F.B.I. files. "When they set the guidelines, we'll follow them to the letter," Mr. Kelley said in the inter-